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OR,

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General Summary of News.

EUROPE.

Complaints regarding the Post Office System in England, as affecting the dispatch of Letters to India, have been now made for a period of upwards of two years, without any apparent benefit, since they are as loud now as at any former period, and are as fully justified by circumstances of neglect, that every successive arrival brings to light, as they ever could have been.

We have before us a Letter from Sir Francis Freeling, to a mercantile gentleman in this city, replying to a complaint of the delay of Letters for India in the Post Office in England, which endeavours to explain away the appearance of neglect, by attributing it to the delay and detention of the ships after they had quitted London. The Letter is as follows:—

To ————, Esq. Calcutta.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 8th of August last, complaining of delay in forwarding your Letters from Dublin, and that you had received by the same conveyance three Letters: dated in November, December, and January.

In reply I beg to acquaint you, that as the dates of the Letters from Dublin are not stated, I am unable to answer your Letter in so satisfactory a manner, as I could wish; but all Letters for Calcutta to the 18th November inclusive, went by the Mary Packet, Captain Lusk. The Norfolk, also a Packet, was appointed to sail on the 30th December, 1817, but did not sail until the 19th January, 1818, and she was driven into Portsmouth by contrary winds, and could not sail again from thence until the 4th February.

With this explanation you will see that there has been no intentional delay with the India Correspondence, and that the fact of your receiving Letters dated in November and January by the same ship, arose from circumstances over which the Post Office could have no controul.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

General Post Office, }
26th January, 1819. }

F. FREELING, Secretary.

In the particular instance here cited, the explanation may be thought to be sufficient; but, in the case of the Dauntless, by which vessel this Letter of Sir Francis Freeling's came, there are Letters which bear the mark of having been deposited in the London Post Office, in the month of December, and which were not dispatched until March! Of this, it cannot be urged that the winds and weather were the cause; for, though contrary gales may prevent a ship getting out of the Channel

after she has received her Mails on board, it would be difficult to prove, that a fair wind and favourable weather were necessary before the letter bags could be got under way from Lombard Street, for a journey of one night to Portsmouth by the Mail coach.

If the system were followed of never putting Letters for India on board until the ship reaches Portsmouth, where she may often be found *three months after she took her pilot on board in the Thames*, and the further precaution of never putting Letters on board any other vessels than those bound to India direct; we might unquestionably have our Letters in India, and the replies be returned to England, in the average space of ten months; whereas it now frequently happens, that from the delay of Letters in the Post Office at home, and the circuitous voyages of the ships that bring them, they are fully that period in coming to India only; and to increase the vexation, all private parties are injured, and no one branch of the public service, or public revenue, benefited by the delay.

We stated some time since that Letters from very high authority had reached this country by the Waterloo, giving the strongest assurances of a reform in that branch of the Post Office system which relates to India Letters; and we have every reason to be assured that this information was correct. The Waterloo's mails continue still to be the latest received in Bengal, for the mails of the Minerva and the Rose, which have been long enough in the hands of the India Post Office to have been here long before now, we have yet heard nothing of.

A sensible Letter of "a Father and a Senior Merchant," in our subsequent columns, may be referred to on this head.

Among the articles of minor intelligence, both foreign and domestic, which the English prints furnish, the following are some of the most prominent:

Messrs. Konig and Bauer, who obtain so much celebrity in England by their invention of the steam-engine printing press, are now established in the vicinity of Wurtzburg, their native territory, and are said to be actively employed in executing orders for their presses from the principal cities of Germany.

An article from Nuremberg repeats the report from Spain, recently mentioned in the Paris Journals, of a proposal by the Marquis D'Irujo to finish the war in South America at one blow, by sending out a force of 40,000 men; and adds, that the contemplated means of defraying the expence of such an armament, which is calculated at 30,000,000 of dollars, consist in the sale of Majorca, Minorca, and Ivica, to Russia, of the Canaries to Holland, of Cuba to England, and of Porto Rico, the Spanish part of St. Domingo, and the Philippines, to France.

The Ems has been surveyed, for the purpose of commencing operations to render its course navigable from its mouth to the common frontier of Prussia and Hanover, pursuant to the treaty by which East Friesland was ceded to the

King of Hanover. The ceremony of the jubilee marriage of their Saxon Majesties was to be performed on the 9th by the Bishop of Bautzen.

The 21st of January was observed, as usual, at Paris, by the performance of expiatory masses in all the churches for the soul of Louis XVI. The Prince and Princess of the Royal Family, the deputations from both Chambers, the Duke of Gloucester and suite, were present at the celebration of the solemnity in the church of St. Denis.

A courier is said to have been sent to Rome, charged with important dispatches; but whether respecting the affairs of the Gallican Church, or about the Bull of the Coronation, was not known in Paris. At a private sale in that city, Canova's famous statue of the mother of Buonaparte was purchased for the Duke of Devonshire for 36,000 francs. A Russian Prince is said to have wished to purchase it, but he had only commissioned his agent to bid to the extent of 24,000 francs.

ASIA.

Penang Papers, to the 10th of July, have reached us by a late arrival, and they contain some articles of peculiar interest, as shewing the state of parties, and of feelings, in that quarter, on the subject of our new Eastern Settlements.

It will be in the recollection of our readers, that very interesting Letters upon this question have been published, from time to time, in the Calcutta Journal; to which we may add, that though nothing was urged against their accuracy, by those best acquainted with the subject, and most recently from the spot; yet they were not permitted to appear in the Gazette at Penang.

Recently, however, that Paper has given publicity to a Letter, professing to have come from Singapore, which is far more lavish in praise of the measures pursued, to the eastward, and more openly flattering as to the characters of the individuals employed in it, than any thing that has before met the public eye through the medium of other Indian Journals.

It is altogether so curious a production, that we think it deserves preservation, more particularly when the explanations that follow it are given. The document itself, as appearing in the Penang Gazette of the 5d of July, is as follows:—

For the following interesting article respecting the new settlement of Singapore, we are indebted to the kindness of a friend.

Extract of a Letter from Singapore, dated June 15, 1819.

"In compliance with your request I now proceed to give you some account of the affairs of this settlement.—Our gallant hero, Sir Stamford Raffles, arrived on the latter end of last month and expressed much surprise and satisfaction at seeing how much had been done during his absence and how much of the Island we had cleared, considering the enormous and exorbitant price of labour here. His active and penetrating mind of course very soon discovered the importance of winning and conciliating the different native Chiefs about us, and anticipating the deep laid schemes of the Dutch who are endeavouring to prove that we came here, and are even now here, against the wishes of the surrounding native Powers. It is fortunate for us that no where in the world is the Empire of opinion more easily won and lost than among these native Chiefs, who will side with the Dutch to-day and with us to-morrow, or with us to-day and with the Dutch to-morrow, if a little trouble is only taken with them. Missions and ships have therefore been sent in every direction; and a deputation is gone to Padang to invite the Chief of that place to come here and crown our Sultan of Johore. In the mean time our population is daily increasing, and I think it was a master stroke of policy that placed Major

Farquhar in command of this post. His long residence at Malacca had so endeared him to its native Inhabitants that he now acts (to use a vulgar phrase) as a decoy duck in leading them to quit the Dutch and join us here.

Our Establishment consists at present of,

Major Farquhar, as Resident and Commandant on his Malacca allowances, which are about...Spanish Dollars	1100
Lieut. Crossly, Bengal Infantry, as 1st Assistant Resident and Collector, receives, independent of his Military allowances, a salary of	400
Lieut. Ralfe, Bengal Artillery, as Assistant Engineer and Military Store-Keeper, receives, in addition to his Military allowances, about	250
Capt. Seppings, 2d Bat. 20th Regt. as Paymaster, receives, in addition to his Military allowances, a salary of	175
Mr. Barnard, Major Farquhar's Son-in-law, as Master Attendant, on a salary of	300
Mr. Harcourt, as Deputy on ditto	150
To which, add the freight of Mr. Barnard's Brig the Ganges, which is kept as a store ship for the present	800
And, the pay and allowances of our Troops, which consist of three companies of the 2d Batt. 20th Regt. and a proportion of European and Bengal Artillery-men, about	3000

Total fixed monthly charge aboutSpanish Dollars 6175

Lieutenant Ralfe is Acting Station Staff, that appointment being reserved for a relation of Major Farquhar, I believe Lieutenant Davis, of the Bengal Service, who, we hope, will soon join us.

You see our Establishment is at present rather limited; but we trust in a year or two more it will be found to "grow with our growth, and strengthen with our strength."—Our contingent charges are of course just now rather high.

Besides, the expenses of the two cruisers, *Nearchus* and *Minto*, and of the two hired vessels, *Indiana* and *Enterprise*, are still chargeable to this Establishment, and may amount to at about 10 or 12,000 Dollars a month.

The more I see of this place, the more convinced am I that it has very great capabilities; and if the Supreme Government will only authorize a present outlay of a million and a half or two million sterling, and permit our illustrious founder to remove here his seat of Government from Bencoolen, I am confident Singapore will soon become the head of a great Empire, and bring about the removal of every thing like an Establishment from Penang; the commercial and political advantages of which will then be absorbed by this settlement. It must be gratifying to the friends (and who is not his friend?) of Sir Stamford Raffles to know, that such events are not improbable, for it is well known he now possesses the unbounded confidence of the present wise and beloved Governor General; who, we also hear, has written to him with his own hand, communicating his entire approbation of all the former proceedings at Singapore; the legitimacy of which, His Lordship says, cannot be questioned.

Sir Stamford has now certainly proved himself to be the ablest man in India. As a Statesman, he joins the commanding talents and sound judgment of Pitt, with the vigour and boldness of his great father, the tact and shrewdness of Talleyrand, and the mild temper and fascinating manners of Fox. As a writer, his brevity of expression is only equalled by his elegance of diction; and all judges of fine writing admit he clothes a Johnsonian depth of thought, with all the Addisonian graces of style. But I must not allow my admiration and gratitude to run away with me. We cannot, however, admire him too much for one quality. How admirably he knows how to employ that power—

fill engine the Press, in aid of his extensive plans! I see the Bengal Papers, and particularly the Calcutta Journal, have all been called upon to support us, and some of our notices, which the Penang Editor declined to print, pending the decision of the Supreme Government, have been readily published by the Calcutta Editors.

I forgot to tell you before that the climate of Singapore is most salubrious; although like all newly formed settlements its jungle and swamps have proved a little prejudicial to the health of the troops. Some of the Officers of the 1st Battalion 20th Regiment are dangerously ill of dysentery; four of the European Artillery men and several of the Sepoys have died, and a great many of the latter poor fellows are afflicted with shocking inveterate ulcers in the legs, induced by bruises received in cutting and clearing the woods.

The publication of this Letter in a Gazette, which was known to have declined the insertion of praises of a far more moderate tone, and founded on something more substantial than the warm but misguided zeal and admiration of a single individual, on which alone this appeared evidently to rest,—naturally excited the suspicion of the Friends of Sir Stamford Raffles and Major Farquhar, that it was the production of some enemy to their reputation, who, in the disguise of a friend and admirer, had taken this mode of attempting at least to cast a degree of ridicule on their pretensions and proceedings.

A meeting was held at the house of Sir Ralph Rice, the Recorder of Penang, to consult on the subject, and Sir Ralph gave it as a legal opinion which he was prepared to support, that the production in question contained libellous matter against the individuals named, and that the writer might be proceeded against on that ground.

This impression became so general, that the Editor of the Gazette immediately on discovering it, sent forth a short Notice to the Public, couched in the following terms:—

TO THE PUBLIC.

An objectionable article having been inadvertently inserted in the last Number of the Prince of Wales' Island Gazette, the Editor is most anxious to suppress it as soon as possible. He entreats therefore, the candour and liberality of the Subscribers will return him per bearer, the first sheet of last Saturday's Gazette and accept the accompanying in its room.

Prince of Wales' Island, July 6, 1819.

Many of the copies were thus recovered, and a sheet without the objectionable article supplied in its stead; but at Penang, as in most other quarters of the globe, the very circumstance of a desire to suppress, occasioned a correspondent wish on the part of those who possessed the document to spread it more widely, so that copies were preserved with a care that would not otherwise perhaps have been bestowed on them; and these were circulated with notes, commentaries, and annotations to all other parts of India. It is from one of these copies and its original notes which has reached us, that we learn the following particulars.

The Chief Secretary to Government, with whom the Censorship of the Press is vested, at Penang, had been absent in the country on account of his health, and the examination and revision of the Sheets remaining with the Editor himself in this interval—he saw no reason for refusing insertion to a Letter which was handed to him by a Friend who was an inmate of the Governor's family, the Paper itself being professedly published under the authority and patronage of Government.

When the impression had gone abroad however of its being intended to draw down ridicule on men acting in a public capacity, and the Friends of those individuals had expressed their decided belief of its having been published with that view,

the Chief Secretary to Government called upon the Editor by Letter to inform him by whom the offensive Document was sent to him for publication.

To this the Editor very satisfactorily replied that having no ground to suspect either the authenticity or the evil intention of the production to which he had given insertion, he hoped to be exonerated from all blame as to the motives by which he had been actuated, and begged in the mean time not to be pressed for a disclosure of the name of the Friend from whom he had received the communication, which he conceived it would be neither just nor honourable to do.

Permission was given to the Editor to publish this Correspondence between the Chief Secretary to Government and himself, which was done in the Gazette of the 10th of July, with the proper signatures, and accompanied by an assurance on his part, that though published in the Gazette of the Government, the Letter in question had received no public sanction or authority whatever.

The offence given to the Friends of Sir Stamford Raffles and Major Farquhar, was however of too deep a nature to be satisfied with a mere expression of regret, and they determined to pursue it further; in consequence of which, measures were about to be taken which might have involved an innocent individual in great difficulty, but fortunately had the effect of inducing the person who furnished the Letter to the Editor for publication, to avow himself at the public meeting which was held at Penang; and this gentleman was an Officer on the Governor's establishment! and a Member of the family at the Government House of Penang!!

Here our information closes, as almost immediately after this, the vessel by which we have received our Papers left the settlement, and we have heard nothing further of the affair.

The same Gazette contains some Notice of Captain Smith's beautiful Drawings at Penang, for which we shall find room to-morrow.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Although we are furnished regularly with the Sydney Gazettes from this quarter, there are facts that are communicated in private correspondence, which do not find their way to the Papers of that Settlement. Among these we notice the following, which are published in the London Star of the 7th of January, purporting to be extracted from a Letter written at Port Jackson, and addressed to a Friend at Plymouth Dock.

"The work here is not hard. The hours are from six to three. Rich and poor can do much better here than in England. The country abounds in fruit—peaches 1d. per dozen, Meat 7d. per pound; wheat, 5s. per bushel, fowls alive 2s. 6d. per couple. The fruits are so abundant, that swine are fed on them. New South Wales holds out such advantages to persons of industry and character, that I shall never think of returning to England. Plenty of fish here, but none of them resemble the fish of England, except the mullet and bream. The river Hawkesbury is broader than Hamoaze, and sometimes rises forty or fifty feet, overflowing all its banks. A late inundation has been productive of considerable mischief to the harvest. It is dreadful to a contemplative mind to observe the distress of both sexes here, in one of the finest spots on the globe, arising from the abominable practice of drinking rum to excess to obtain which no means are left untried. No man's house is safe: you are sure of having your premises robbed, unless a person is left in them as guard during your absence. The Methodist Connexion, of which I am a member, is very small: Mr. Lee is the Preacher, a very pious good man. Sunday Schools are established, as well as a school where forty girls are clothed and supported."

AMERICA.

We have waited with some anxiety for the result of the negotiations that were pending between Great Britain and America, and though we announced the ratification of the Convention at Washington on the 30th of January last, through the American Prints, we have not met with a copy of the State Document until now. It is contained in the Liverpool Courier of the 3rd of March last, a Paper largely devoted to American Commerce and American affairs generally, from the connexion subsisting between Liverpool and that country, and is as follows:

CONVENTION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
A PROCLAMATION.

This proclamation states, in the preamble, that the convention was signed at London on the 20th October last, ratified by the Prince Regent on the 2d November, and by the President on the 28th January; and that the ratifications were exchanged at Washington on the 30th January. It then recites the treaty, which contains the following articles:—

Article 1. Whereas differences have arisen respecting the liberty claimed by the United States, for the inhabitants thereof to take, dry, and cure fish, on certain coasts, bays, harbours, and creeks of his Britannic Majesty's dominions in America, it is agreed between the High Contracting Parties, that the inhabitants of the said United States shall have, for ever, in common with the subjects of his Britannic Majesty, the liberty to take fish of every kind on that part of the southern coast of Newfoundland, which extends from Cape Ray to the Rameau Islands, on the western and northern coast of Newfoundland, from the said Cape Ray to the Querpon Islands, on the shores of the Magdalen Islands, and also on the coasts, bays, harbours, and creeks, from Mount Joly, on the southern coast of Labrador, to and through the Straits of Bellisle, and thence northwardly indefinitely along the coast, without prejudice, however, to any of the exclusive rights of the Hudson Bay Company. And that the American fishermen shall also have liberty, for ever, to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours, or creeks of the southern parts of the coast of Newfoundland, hereabove described, and of the coast of Labrador; but so soon as the same, or any portion thereof, shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such portion so settled, without previous agreement for such purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors, or possessors of the ground. And the United States hereby renounce, for ever, any liberty heretofore enjoyed or claimed by the inhabitants thereof, to take, dry, or cure fish on or within three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays, creeks, or harbours of his Britannic Majesty's dominions in America, not included within the above-mentioned limits: provided however, that the American fishermen shall be admitted to enter such bays or harbours for the purpose of shelter and of repairing damages therein, of purchasing wood, and of obtaining water, and for no other purpose whatever. But they shall be under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent their taking, drying, or curing fish therein, or in any other manner whatever abusing the privileges hereby reserved to them.

Art. 2. It is agreed, that a line drawn from the most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods, along the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, or if the said point shall not be in the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, then that a line drawn from the said point due north or south, as the case may be, until the said line shall intersect the said parallel of north latitude, and from the point of such intersection, due west along and with the said parallel, shall be the line of demarcation between the territories of the United States and those of his Britannic Majesty, and that the said line shall form the northern boundary of the said territories of the United States, and the southern boundary of the territories of his Britannic Majesty, from the Lake of the Woods to the Stony Mountains.

Art. 3. It is agreed, that any country that may be claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America, westward of the Stony Mountains, shall, together with its harbours, bays, and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be free and open, for the term of ten years from the date of the signatures of the present Convention, to the vessels, citizens, and subjects of the two powers; it being well understood, that this agreement is not to be construed to the prejudice of any claim which either of the two High Contracting Parties may have to any part of the said country, nor shall it be taken to affect the claims of any other power or state to any part of the said country; the only object of the High Contracting Parties, in that respect, being to prevent disputes and differences amongst themselves.

Art. 4. All the provisions of the Convention, "to regulate the commerce between the territories of the United States and of his Britannic Majesty," concluded at London, on the third day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, with the exception of the clause which limited its duration to four years, and excepting, also, so far as the same was affected by the declaration of his Majesty respecting the Island of St. Helena, are hereby extended and continued in force for the term of ten years from the date of the signature of the present Convention, in the same manner as if all the provisions of the said Convention were herein specially recited.

Art. 5. Whereas it was agreed by the first article in the Treaty of Ghent, that "All territory, places, and possessions whatsoever, taken by either party from the other, during the war, or which may be taken after the signing of the treaty, excepting only on the islands hereinafter mentioned, shall be restored without delay, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any of the artillery or other public property originally captured in the said forts or places, which shall remain therein upon the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty;" and whereas, under the aforesaid article, the United States claim for their citizens, and as their private property, the restitution of, or full compensation for, all slaves who, at the date of the exchange of the ratifications of the said treaty, were in any territory, places, or possessions whatsoever, directed by the said treaty to be restored to the United States, but then still occupied by the British forces, whether such slaves were, at the date aforesaid, on shore, or on board any British vessel lying in waters within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States; and whereas differences have arisen, whether, by the true intent and meaning of the aforesaid article of the Treaty of Ghent, the United States are entitled to the restoration of, or full compensation for, all or any slaves as above described, the High Contracting Parties hereby agree to refer the said differences to some friendly Sovereign or State, to be named for that purpose; and the High Contracting Parties further engage to consider the decision of such a friendly Sovereign or State to be final and conclusive on all the matters referred.

Art. 6. This Convention, when the same shall have been duly ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of their Senate, and by his Britannic Majesty, and the respective ratifications mutually exchanged, shall be binding and obligatory on the said United States, and on his Majesty; and the ratifications shall be exchanged in six months from this date, or sooner, if possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have thereunto affixed the seal of their arms.

Done at London, this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

(L. S.)	ALBERT GALLATIN.
(L. S.)	RICHARD RUSH.
(L. S.)	FREDERICK JOHN ROBINSON.
(L. S.)	HENRY GOULBURN.

Letter Packets.

To the Editor, of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Heavy complaints have been made of the careless manner in which letters are sent out from England, and some filips have been bestowed upon the Post Office at this Presidency. It seems to me that the Public has a just additional ground of complaint in the great delay which the Company's Ships, having Letter Packets on board, are allowed to make in proceeding from other Presidencies to the port of their ultimate destination. We know that the Rose arrived at Madras some time ago, and the Minerva anchored off that Settlement a considerable number of days before the Rose. Passengers who came from England in the Minerva, and who left that ship at Madras, reached Calcutta about a fortnight since. But where are our Commercial advices; where our notices of Bills accepted and protested; where our anxiously expected letters from tenderly loved relatives, giving interesting accounts of the first abecedical efforts of our far distant children? This, Mr. Editor, is an evil under the sun which requires correction.

I remain, Sir,

Your humble servant,

A FATHER AND SENIOR MERCHANT.

Old Post Office Street, }
August 10, 1819. }

Hints on Native Roguery.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

A worthy English Gentleman, who I know wishes me well, and frequently admits of my Visits in a most kind manner, interrogated me at my last interview much in this way: "But what is the reason that the Natives are all considered to be rogues? every one of my acquaintance say, they are not to be depended upon." A very wholesome assertion truly, Mr. Editor; and as I then, I hope, satisfied the Querist with the answer I made, I trust it will not be deemed irrelevant if I subjoin it in defence of my Countrymen, and this the more particularly, seeing from the nature of the assertion that it is generally believed to be founded in truth.

I fired a random shot, and for illustration alone fixed upon the Custom House. Let any one, says I, look at the Native Establishment employed there, the salaries they receive, the respectability of the situation, expences incident thereto, and can he wonder that dishonesty should be resorted to, to obtain what the most faithful discharge of official duty will not obtain. Take an instance. The Head Native Officer. What is his salary? Fifty rupees per month. Can a man in that (in the eyes of his Countrymen) high and respectable situation subsist upon that trifle and keep a conveyance in the bargain? Certainly not, if he has not other resources. It is very clear that when a native succeeds to one of these appointments, he is very closely watched, has not the power, even if he had the inclination to receive bribes, knows that his salary will not meet his expences, and being fond of adulation and respect, continues holding the appointment till a press of expences obliges him at length to make one effort to extricate himself, and that terminates most probably in his loss of office.

If this instance will not suffice, let us turn to another.

Aumeens employed in the Custom Department, are entrusted with transactions of great responsibility; through the hands of some of them, Goods to the extent of Forty or Fifty thousand Rupees, are daily passing. What is their salary? Ten Rupees per month, and out of that to provide one or two Mohurers or Accountants, to assist the one appointed by Government. What remains? Say six Rupees. Did I say that six remained? That was wrong; for from that is to be deducted in several instances the rent of the Choukey House which the Aumeens are themselves obliged to defray! Hir-carus or Peons who run before Gentlemen's Palanqueens receive five or six Rupees per month, though they have no confidence placed in them, and are Aumeens whose cause I am now advocating to be placed in a worse situation than they? If so, let no more aspersions be cast for.

To be convinced against one's will,
Is to hold the same opinion still.

Jorasanhook, }
July 29, 1819. }

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
SIBNARAIN CHUNDER.

P— to Manetho.

SIR,

You do me honor when you are pleased to say I deserve the applause of every lover of antiquarian research, in consequence of a few suggestions, contained in my Letter of the 28th of March last.

The subject which stimulated me to address the Editor of the Calcutta Journal, is one which has been so long neglected by our Governments in India, that were it not from a knowledge of the liberal encouragement given to men of acquirements by our present Noble Ruler, I never should have dared to excite public attention to a point apparently so little valued.

I have great hopes, Sir, that the known liberality and munificence of the present Administration will take measures to release us from the aspersion of apathy, which has so justly been thrown on us. What European State, possessing our power, holding the reins of Government over so vast an Empire, fruitful in every subject of Philosophy, Natural History, and Science, and enriched by a body of covenanted servants, capable of disputing the palm of general acquirement with any known commonwealth, would have allowed a foreign Government to make arrangements for carrying on scientific researches in a country which had been incorporated with the parent State for upwards of two centuries?

I here allude to the projected undertakings of the Baron Humboldt; to whom His Majesty of Prussia, a kingdom, dependent as it were on other European powers, has allowed a yearly salary, and a complete philosophical apparatus. Has not this awakened the feelings of our Literary Society? If measures are not taken to convince the European world that we are not indifferent to scientific research, we run a very fair risk of having a lasting record in history, "that at the expence of a small and inferior court of Europe, was the laurel of literary fame snatched from a State, which not only from the weight she bears in a political scale, should endeavour to add to the general state of human knowledge, but is regarded by all the world, from her extensive Indian possessions, and firmly established footing in the East, as pre-eminently competent to disclose to the world, information on every branch of Oriental Science." The nations of the West expect it as a natural consequence of our enlarged dominion, and as a duty that we owe to mankind.

Now, Sir, comparatively speaking, we are but a very little farther launched into the wide and venerable ocean of Indian Science and Research, than we were in the middle of the 17th century. What has been the cause? Surely not a want of genius; undoubtedly not a want of funds; but want of encouragement from that source which can alone make the task effectual—the Government.

Supposing that our Indian governments (doubting the confirmation by our Honorable Masters of the grant necessary to carry on this public undertaking) did not authorize the same; might not the Asiatic Society allot a portion of its funds for the express purpose of affording salaries to any of its members who might possess the necessary qualifications for the task? I should think this would only require being put to the vote, to ensure immediate approbation; I will even be so bold as to say, that should the present subscription of its members be inadequate to meet the expence necessary to be incurred, there is not one of them who would not readily consent to an increase of the same, in aid of an enterprise of such general utility. I myself have the honor of being a member of that Society, and altho' my salary is small, and my pursuits expensive, I would most willingly deposit my additional mite in support of such a desirable object as General Research.

I state "Salary" as indispensable, from knowing that the point in question cannot be fully prosecuted without it; few private individuals having allowances that would be adequate to the undertaking, on the grand scale which would be requisite to make it effectual.

It certainly would be better if the whole was arranged under the immediate patronage of Government; and that such will be the case, sooner or later, there is not the least doubt; I speak of the present Administration.

I could say a great deal more on this subject, but I will now turn to another, most intimately connected with it, indeed the "sine qua non;" namely, the study of the Sanscrit language, as without this, most of our antiquarian researches would be vain.

It may excite your astonishment, Sir, when I acquaint you that a few days since, being in conversation with a very learned Brahmana regarding the disappearance of numerous Treatises and different Tracts of Hindoo literature, I was surprized on his telling

me, that within the period of his own recollection, more manuscripts had gone into non-entity (I use his own words) than would fill a large trunk; that Brahmanas had now no object to gain, by a study of their sacred language, and that in the British territories in particular, no encouragement to it was given.

This assertion made a forcible impression on me, and the following reasons of its former and progressive decay suggested themselves.

The decline of Hindoo Literature may be dated from the several invasions of India by the Mahomedans, always undertaken with a view to the destruction of the religious edifices of the Hindoos, and their compulsory conversion to the faith of Mahommed.

Although dearly-bought experience should have taught them the utter impossibility of carrying their intentions (as far as regarded conversion) into effect, still those bigotted invaders and conquerors, until the time of Aclar, were most enthusiastically zealous in their attempts, by bestowing rewards on the apostates from Hindooism, and also by forcing to the embrace of Islamism, those unfortunate captives, who by chance of battle might have fallen into their power.

During this period, which may be said to have existed from the invasion of Sabuktagi, at the close of the 10th century, until Aclar's succession to the Moghul throne, in the middle of the 16th century, persecutions and ignominies were inflicted generally, but especially on the Brahmanas, who were considered by their conquerors, from their unexampled resistance against all attempts at a subversion of their faith, and from being at the head of the Hindoo church, as the chief bar to the completion of their fanatic designs. During these scenes of religious persecution, the Mahomedans were not behind hand in the demolition of their numerous temples, and destruction of literary works, when within their power. These they considered as so many monuments of idolatry and superstition; and all this was done in as aggravated and overbearing a manner as they could possibly devise. This, together with the unceasing persecution of the priests and people, the complete subversion of the ancient national government, the natural concomitant, loss of liberty to the subject; all these combined, tended most effectually to the decline of Hindoo literature.

During the reign of Aclar, it was in some degree recovering from the shock received by these persecutions, and had the successors of this tolerant prince followed his path, there is every reason to suppose it would have regained much of what now stands almost irrecoverably lost. This tolerant prince not only allowed every sect an uninterrupted performance of religious rites, but proclaimed to all the Mahomedan officers in his service, the equal claim of every individual in his empire to an enjoyment of their respective tenets, and the practice of their outward forms.

The Brahmanas and Jainas both received encouragement to the advancement of their literature. I now have in my possession a Jaina Treatise on Etymology, at the conclusion of which is the following sentence:—"Written on the 3rd day of the bright fortnight of the moon, in the month of Kartika, in the year of the Samval era 1861 (Anno Domini 1603-4), by Rishabha Dasa, in the city of Yodhpura (Jondpore), governed by Raja Suri Singha; at which time the good Emperor Aclar was Universal Monarch." I merely cite this to prove that his tolerance had the effect of encouraging literary men.

His having sent one of his own faith to Benares, for the express purpose of being instructed in Brahminical learning, is well known. This temporary relief did not, however, serve to restore to the world, the innumerable literary tracts which had disappeared during the preceding reigns of persecution. The distrust and dread imposed by the merciless fury and ungovernable bigotry of the Mahomedans, had not time to be sunk in oblivion; and neither could it be expected it should, from a supposed temporary cessation, (for the unfortunate Hindoos had so often seen a renewal of horrors after a short interval) after six centuries of unprecedented distress. That they had just cause to expect a renewal of Mahomedan frenzy, was proved in the reign of Aurungzebe, who re-commenced the work of persecution, marching through the south of India, to the very borders of the sea coast, for the express purpose of destroying their temples. The numerous beautiful architectural monuments which we now behold in that portion of the peninsula, in their mutilated and shattered state, are pointed out by the Hindoos of the present day residing in those parts, as having suffered demolition from his fanaticism; and in consequence, his name, as a wanton destroyer of their fane, and cruel persecutor of their priests, is execrated among all classes.

Amidst such scenes of despotism and religious tyranny, is it to be wondered at, Sir, that a nation, persecuted for its tenets, whose princes, the former patrons of its literature, and whose priesthood, who cultivated it, are both in a state of vassalage and not possessing the benefits of the press, should lose numerous literary monuments, which, from the latter cause, even in the most tranquil times, run a great risk of a partial disappearance? Accordingly we now find that innumerable works, cited in various authors, cannot be found; although their former actual existence stands confirmed by extracts from, and continued reference to them in other books; and I am of opinion, that the general research in question will be the cause of bringing to light many valuable tracts now only known by name, and supposed to be irrecoverably lost.

It may be urged that no strong reason for a general culture of the Sanscrita language exists, it being a dead tongue, and above all, there being no demand for it in public affairs. These are the reasons urged by many men, and supposed to be sufficient, for its total neglect and consequent decline: It must be allowed, however, that an acquaintance with it gives the possessor an incalculable advantage in the acquisition of every provincial dialect, and place him in whatever part of India you may, his superiority will be apparent.

In affairs of state (as far as written documents can go) the reason for the general neglect stands good, as we have followed the system adopted by the Mahomedans—of using only Persian writings; but that a knowledge of it is important, must be allowed, it being the sanctuary of the laws and religion of nine-tenths of those we now govern; and where the administration of justice so entirely depends on an acquaintance with those laws, held in such high veneration by many millions, the knowledge of it must be important.

The Sanscrita language bears the same affinity towards the ordinary Hindoo dialects that Latin does to European languages, and would afford the same valuable aid if it were more studied than it is. But it is urged, that it is the most expensive and arduous literary pursuit in India, and that therefore the student of it should be aided by the Government.*

I am aware that I have handled this important subject badly; but if I succeed in drawing forth the masterly sentiments and pen of MANETHO, my object will be gained, being fully confident of his ability to do the subject ample justice.

Benares, July 1819.

Sir, your's obediently,

P.

P. S.—I should be most happy to have it in my power to visit the remains of antiquity between Chunar and Mirzapore, but fear I shall not have leisure for some time—if ever.

* I have heard that the Manuscript Sanscrita Library of Mr. Colebrooke cost 1,00,000 Rupees.

Queries.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

Your correspondent (in your Number for September last,) is mistaken in supposing the tremulous vapour, seen rising from the earth's surface on a hot summer's day, to be gas: it is simply evaporation of aqueous particles, produced by the rays of the sun on the earth's surface.

Vegetation, at this time, I will admit, gives out much oxygen; but that is entirely invisible.

If your correspondent makes use of a telescope of high magnifying power, he will then see the vapour much more plainly than with the naked eye.

The quantity of water that rises from the earth on a hot summer's day is quite incredible.

Let any one dip a glass receiver into cold water, wipe it quickly, and set it on a very dry spot: he will soon find that the interior of the glass will not only be covered shortly with a thick dew, but that large drops of water will run down its sides.

X. Y.

N. B. Can any of your correspondents explain the cause of a common fire going out when exposed to the rays of the sun?—Or, explain the cause of the action of a poker laid over a slow fire to make it burn quickly

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

WINDSOR ESTABLISHMENT.

On the Motion of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, the House went into a Committee to consider the Report of the Committee on the Windsor Establishment, and Mr. Brogden took the Chair.

LORD CASTLEREAGH said, that with respect to the provision for Her late Majesty's servants, the Committee had recommended, that the annual sum of 18,245*l.* should be applied to that purpose. He apprehended it was not necessary for him, after what he had stated last night, to enter at present into any further details on that part of the subject. He should, therefore, simply move the second resolution:—"That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the sum of 4,561*l.* being the fourth part of the annual allowance, be issued every quarter out of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to the late servants of Her Majesty."

The Resolution was then put, and carried.

LORD CASTLEREAGH said, the next subject which he should submit to the consideration of the Committee was the office of custos; and after what had passed in the discussion of last night, he was sure that no farther argument was necessary. He should wish, in proposing the resolution which he was about to submit on this head, to avoid every allusion which might have a personal reference to His Royal Highness, and to look only at the official duties which were to be intrusted to him. As to the amount of the provision made for this office, no question had been advanced in the House. Parliament had formerly allowed 10,000*l.* to this office; and he thought, and felt convinced that every Member of the House would agree with him, that 10,000*l.* a year, considering the dignity of the office, and all the circumstances connected with it—he was convinced the House would not think the sum too great. The House would see that the habits of Royal persons, and the state which their rank obliged them to support, unavoidably raised their scale of expenditure above that of ordinary life. They would also bear in mind, that the office was not merely attended with great expences, but that it placed His Royal Highness, in that respect, much in the same situation as the King himself would be in. He was sure that no personal motive had actuated those who had voted with him last night, and therefore they could not be considered as pledged to support him on this question; but he thought they could not take a better guide than the conduct of the former Parliament. With regard to the Right Honorable Gentleman (Mr. Tierney), and the other Gentlemen on the opposite side, he thought he had an equal claim to their support, and he hoped they would be convinced that the conduct of Parliament in 1811 and 1812, was the best guide they could follow. It was not merely the office, but the elevated rank of the individual, and other attending circumstances, that must regulate the expence. The Noble Lord then moved, "that an annual sum of 10,000*l.* be granted to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, to meet the expences of His Royal Highness, incurred by discharging the duties of custos of His Majesty's person."

MR. TIERNEY said he was at a loss to conceive on what grounds the Noble Lord calculated on his support to the present proposal. If the Noble Lord had consented that the 10,000*l.* should be taken out of the privy purse, on that condition he would have agreed to the grant, but on no other; and this he had stated in the Committee. The conduct of the last Parliament had been recommended to them as a guide on the present occasion; and the Noble Lord seemed to think that it would be inconsistent in those who voted for the grant in 1812 to oppose it now: but that grant to the Queen, he begged to remind the Noble Lord, he (Mr. Tierney) had opposed, and yet, to preserve consistency, he was now called upon to support a similar measure. On account of the Queen's affliction at that time, the House, from motives of delicacy, had been unwilling to oppose the grant; but surely they had never intended that that vote should form a precedent. He certainly was not disposed to offer opposition to the measure; but if the Noble Lord persisted in driving it on, he should not think that he was discharging his duty, if he did not oppose it. He would not divide the House on the question to-night, because, from a misunderstanding with regard to the course which it was understood the Noble Lord was to pursue, many Gentlemen had not attended the House. But he now gave notice, that on Thursday he would take the sense of the House on this grant. Whether the proposed sum was proper or not, was not

the question with him; but he was determined, that, as far as his opposition could have any effect, it should not come out of the public purse.

LORD RANCLIFFE was resolved to oppose the grant, if it was to be paid out of the public purse.

MR. WAITHMAN could not allow this vote to pass without entering his solemn protest. It did appear obvious to him, that in this affair the House were at liberty to adopt any course which they thought proper. The privy purse was a public fund, and as such the House of Commons had a right to dispose of it. He opposed the measure, not solely on account of the circumstances of the country, but on various other grounds. When the distress occasioned by the weight of taxation was so great, and when it was stated on all sides of the House that it was necessary to adopt economy, it was evident that it must commence somewhere. If His Majesty's Ministers were sincere, it was incumbent on them to prove their sincerity by adopting economical measures. In advising His Royal Highness the Duke of York to allow them to bring down the Message which they had brought from him, they had given advice which tended only to degrade His Royal Highness. They ought rather to have advised him to come down to the House himself, and to say that he would be proud to take any sum which Parliament would allow him; but that, from the distress of the country, he could not consent to receive it from the public purse. He would not detain the House any longer, but he was convinced that in what he had said, he had spoken the sentiments of the whole country.

MR. CURWEN thought he should not discharge his duty, if he did not give his decided opposition to the grant.

The resolution was then put, and carried.

The fourth resolution, "That the payment of all annuities and pensions to superannuated servants of His Majesty be paid one of the consolidated fund, agreeably to Act 52 of His Majesty," was then moved.

In reply to a question put by Mr. Bankes, but which was not heard in the gallery.

LORD CASTLEREAGH said, that by the Act as it now stood, the Custos had the right of providing for the superannuated servants of the King, taking care that the charges did not exceed the amount specified by the Act of Parliament.

The resolution was then carried.

The fifth resolution, "That the sum of 14,500*l.* being the fourth part of the annual sum allowed to the late Queen, be set aside from the civil list each quarter, and be carried over to the consolidated fund," was then moved.

SIR A. HOPE said, that he was anxious to have the number of Equerries distinctly allowed by the Committee. By reducing two of them, the saving effected would be tantamount to nothing. But should His Majesty recover from his indisposition, it would necessarily give him great pain to find any of his old servants displaced. Besides, His Majesty, in his present situation, required the attendance of his servants as formerly; the Lords of the Bed-chamber could remain with him and perform the same offices as formerly. On principle, therefore, and on economy, he would urge the continuance of six Equerries. The principle was, that Parliament should give the King every gratification in their power. As to the economy, it was said that the saving would be 1000*l.* a year; but it might not be 100*l.* altogether. If the King lived long it might again be 2000*l.* The saving, then, was from 100*l.* to 2000*l.*

MR. TIERNEY suggested that the best time for moving to the effect proposed by the gallant officer, would be on Thursday next, when the Report would be brought up.

MR. C. W. WYNN said, that all that came before the House was the sum total to be voted for the establishment, and a recommendation that the number of Equerries should be four. He did not think, therefore, that the number could be altered on bringing up the Report.

SIR A. HOPE remarked that the estimate contained six Equerries, although the Report recommended only four.

MR. TIERNEY said, that the estimate, as referred to in the body of the Report, required to contain six Equerries; but the Report recommended that the number should be four instead of six.

SIR A. HOPE said, he should therefore move that six be the number of Equerries.

MR. TIERNEY said, he agreed with his Hon. Friend (Mr. Wynn). If the sum proposed were 40,000*l.* it might be moved that it should

be 50,000*l*. The money was in fact allowed for six, while it should only be for four Equerries. The question seemed to be how the honourable officer could increase the number of Equerries.

Sir A. HOPE proposed to give notice of a motion for Thursday, that the number of Equerries should be six.

Mr. BROGDEN thought this was not the most regular mode.

Sir R. WILSON said, that as far as the feeling of the King would affect the question, the objection was equally applicable to every reduction of the establishment.

Sir A. HOPE said, that he could not pledge himself to any form of proceeding; for at present he wanted only to know when and how to do it.

Mr. TIERNEY stated, that since the Bill to be brought in must be in the same form as that of 1812, the several officers, the Groom of the Stole, &c. must be named in it; among those would be four Equerries. It would then be competent to move that four should be left out, and six inserted in its place.

Sir A. HOPE said he should follow that course.

The Resolution was then carried.

The several Resolutions having been voted, the House resumed, and the Report was ordered to be received on Thursday next.

Military.

General Orders, by the Commander in Chief, Head-quarters, Calcutta, August 5, 1819.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence.

Major Garner, 1st Battalion 22d Regiment, from 27th September to 27th December, in extension, on his private affairs, to visit the presidency, previous to furlough.

Lieutenant C. McKenly, Aide-de-Camp to Major General Brown, general staff, from the 1st August to 1st October, in extension, to enable him to join the Major General.

Head-quarters, Calcutta, August 6, 1819.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to post Lieutenant George Douglas Roebuck to the 23d Regiment Native Infantry, immediately below Lieutenant W. Forbes and above Lieutenant W. Vernon, the situation to which he is entitled from the rank as Cadet assigned to him by the Honorable the Court of Directors, as notified in Government General Orders of the 10th July 1819.

Lieutenant A. Tenton is removed from the 23d, and posted to the 12th Regiment Native Infantry, immediately below Lieutenant Lermitt.

Lieutenant Roebuck is posted to the 2d Battalion 23d Regiment, and Lieutenant A. Tenton to the 2d Battalion 12th Regiment Native Infantry, and directed to join.

Assistant Surgeon Woodburn, is appointed to do duty with the 1st Battalion 4th Regiment Native Infantry, on the departure from Bareilly, on sick leave, of Assistant Surgeon Darby.

Head-quarters, Calcutta, August 7, 1819.

Major Richards' appointment, on the 22d July 1819, of Lieutenant R. Fernie, to act as Interpreter and Quarter Master to the 1st Battalion 13th Regiment Native Infantry, is confirmed.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence.

Lieutenant Candy, 1st Battalion 6th Regt. from 5th July to 5th October, on sick certificate, to remain at Agra.

Capt. C. Smith, from 1st August to 1st October, on sick certificate, to come to the presidency in order to go to sea.

Brevet Capt. Gordon, Interpreter and Quarter Master 2d Battalion 5th Regt. from 1st August to 1st December, on sick certificate, to the presidency, in order to go to sea.

Lieutenant and Adjutant Bergner, 1st Battalion 30th Regt. from 1st August to 1st September, on sick certificate.

Lieutenant and Adjutant Dick, 2d Battalion 28th Regiment, from 27th August to 30th November, on sick certificate, to remain at the presidency.

Capt. Bishop, 1st Battalion 6th Regt. from 15th August to 15th December, in extension, to enable him to rejoin his corps.

Assistant Surgeon Suter, Irregular Cavalry, from 1st September to 31st December, to visit the presidency.

(Signed) JAMES NICOL, Adj. Gen. of the Army.

Domestic Occurrences.

MARRIAGES.

At Calcutta, on the 9th of August, by the Reverend Mr. Corrie, Mr. J. White, to Miss M. Archer.

At Madras, on the 20th of July, by the Reverend Mr. Vaughan, P. Cleghorn, Esq. Barrister at Law, to Isabella, youngest Daughter of the late Thomas Allan, Esq. of Edinburgh.

BIRTHS.

At Madras, on the 16th of July, the Right Honorable Lady Elizabeth Macgregor Murray, of a Son.

At Madras, on the 17th of July, the Lady of Lieutenant Colonel Blacker, C. B. Quarter Master General, of a Son.

At Calcutta, on the 5th of August, Mrs. W. T. Rodgers, of a Son.

DEATHS.

Near Berhampore, on the 6th of August, on board a Budgerow on the River, Robert Chamberlain, Esq. Secretary to the Board of Commissioners in Behar and Benares. This Gentleman was on a Deputation, re-establishing the office of Canoongoe in the Bengal districts. In the zealous discharge of the duties, he caught the fever so prevalent at Purneah and Dinagepore, when at the latter station; and Moorsheadabad being the next place in the course of his duty, he arrived there on the 26th of July. After this period the fever gained ground, and as a last resource he was put on board a Budgerow, where he died on the morning of the 6th of August, a few days below Berhampore. Mr. Chamberlain was, at the time of his death, 32 years of age, and has left a Wife and four Children to deplore his loss.

At Madras, on the 13th of July, after a short but severe illness, Mr. Thomas Letchum, late Printer of the Madras Courier.

At Tellicherry, after a lingering illness of fourteen months, Mr. Joseph Lafrenais, aged 71 years and 7 months, leaving a disconsolate widow, several children, and a numerous circle of friends, to lament his loss. This Gentleman for several years filled a situation of great national and political importance.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

Aug. Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From whence	Left
10 Sarah Ann	British	W. Wilson	Cape	May 16
19 Mary	British	D. Campbell	Chittagong	July 28

CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

(None)

MADRAS ARRIVALS.

July Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From whence	Left
15 Leyton	British	W. Morgan	Trincomalie	July 12
18 Mermaid	British	W. Hammon	Bombay	June 27
20 Reliance	British	M. Pike	Pondicherry	July 18

MADRAS DEPARTURES.

July Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
12 Julius Caesar	Amer.	C. H. Marshall	Philadelphia

Commercial Reports.

The following regulations relative to the trade of Malta were issued by the Governor, Sir T. Maitland, on the 15th of January last, and is taken from a London Paper.

"The duty of one half per cent. heretofore levied on all goods exported from the island is abolished, and vessels' manifests outwards are no longer required. Vessels putting in here through stress of weather, or for information, may remain 48 hours without being obliged to deliver up their papers, and are at liberty to sail again within that period, subject only to the payment of one tari per ton for anchorage dues and for water if required. Vessels intending to avail themselves of the privilege, are directed to come into the quarantine harbour, but are not, on that account, subjected to any further expense. The excise import duty on rum, the produce of the colonies and possessions of Great Britain, is taken off. The quarantine charges are also reduced."

The Governor has also, by proclamation, abolished, *in toto*, the several establishment of *jurats* in the island of Malta and Gozo, from the commencement of the year 1819.